

compounds in that the ring does not contain a lactone linkage but rather a ketone linkage.” It is applicants’ understanding that the Examiner’s first mention of “compounds” in this sentence is meant to refer to the compounds of the present application, while the compounds referred to in this sentence as “the claimed compounds” are those of U.S. Patent No. 5,338,865. This interpretation is consistent with the drawings of the compounds provided in the “Reasons for Allowance,” which show that the compound of U.S. Patent No. 5,338,865 is a lactone, while that of the “claimed invention” is a ketone. This interpretation is also consistent with the distinctions made in applicants’ Preliminary Remarks that were filed in this case on March 13, 2000, in which it was stated that the compounds of the present application are cyclic ketones, while the compounds of U.S. Patent No. 5,338,865 are lactones.